

## Westbound I-70 Twin Tunnels – December 2014

### Construction Update – Traffic shift planned for mid-December

Later this month, crews will work for about two days straight to put I-70 traffic back into its regular alignment through the Twin Tunnels. This process involves first moving westbound traffic out of the eastbound lanes of the highway and into the newly constructed tunnel. The second major phase will then involve moving eastbound I-70 traffic off the detour route around the tunnel and into its regular alignment through the eastbound tunnel bore.

This work will involve various single lane closures in both directions of I-70 and is scheduled to take place sometime the week of December 15. The exact dates will be determined just prior to that week based on the weather forecast.

Moving westbound traffic to the right into its regular alignment will primarily involve removing temporary concrete barriers and restriping the lanes. This portion of the work will take about 12 hours to complete and will require a single right lane closure followed by a single left lane closure along westbound I-70. There will also be a short period of time when the Central City Parkway on-ramp to westbound I-70 needs to be closed to move barriers and restripe.

Before work begins on the eastbound side, there will be a few hours when there will be no traffic impacts.

Moving eastbound I-70 traffic requires asphalt milling and paving work in addition to moving barriers and restriping lanes. With substantial more work to be done on the eastbound side, this traffic shift will take about 24 hours to complete and will require various single lane closures along eastbound I-70 during this time. The Hidden Valley/Central City Parkway off-ramp from eastbound I-70 (Exit 243) will be closed for about 12 hours while the right lanes are realigned. During this phase of the work there might also be a short-term closure of the east Idaho Springs on-ramp to eastbound I-70 while lanes are restriped.

Crews plan to do this work during the week to minimize the impact on ski traffic, and will only do the work that is necessary to safely open all I-70 lanes in their regular alignment as quickly as possible. This means there will be additional single lane closures along I-70 in the following weeks to finish various non-critical activities.



*With westbound I-70 traffic currently using the eastbound lanes and tunnel (graphic on left), the first step to shifting traffic involves moving westbound traffic over into the new tunnel so eastbound traffic can be taken off the detour and moved into its regular alignment (graphic on right).*